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PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SEVENTY-SECOND MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 21 December 1990, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. THOMPSON (Fiji)
(Vice-President)

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  (d) Election of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees: Note by the Secretary-General

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In the absence of the President, Mr. Thompson (Fiji), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 16 (continued)

ELECTIONS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

(d) ELECTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES: NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/45/890)

The PRESIDENT: By its resolution 42/108 of 7 December 1987, the General Assembly decided to continue the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for a further period of five years from 1 January 1989.

By its decision 44/312 of 20 November 1989, the General Assembly, on the proposal of the Secretary-General (A/44/748), appointed Mr. Thorvald Stoltenberg as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for a four-year term of office beginning on 1 January 1990. On 2 November 1990, the Secretary-General accepted with regret the decision of Mr. Stoltenberg to resign from his post with immediate effect.

In conformity with the procedure established by paragraph 13 of the statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Secretary-General proposes to the General Assembly that it elect Mrs. Sadako Ogata of Japan as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for a period of three years beginning on 1 January 1991.

Before proceeding to take a decision on that proposal, I should like to quote from rule 78 of the General Assembly's rules of procedure in regard to proposals before the Assembly:

"As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting of the General Assembly unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations not later than the day preceding the meeting".

(The President)

In view of the limited time available and of the desire of members to take action on this item expeditiously, I should like to suggest that, with the Assembly's concurrence, we proceed to take a decision on the proposal in document A/45/890, even though it was circulated only this morning. I might point out that the information contained in document A/45/890 was available in document A/45/239, which was circulated yesterday.

As there is no objection, I take it that the Assembly agrees to my proposal.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: May I consider that the General Assembly approves the proposal contained in document A/45/890?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: On behalf of the Assembly I should like to congratulate Mrs. Sadako Ogata of Japan on her appointment as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for a period of three years beginning on 1 January 1991.

Mr. HATANO (Japan): I know that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees does not serve as the representative of any Government and that Professor Ogata has been named to that high office on the basis of her own qualifications, but I should like to express my sincere appreciation to the Secretary-General, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, for having nominated her to the office of High Commissioner, and to Member States for having endorsed that nomination. I am sure that Mrs. Ogata is mindful not only of this great honour but also of the awesome responsibilities that her new office brings with it.

I wish to take this opportunity to stress the importance my Government attaches to United Nations efforts for refugees and to confirm that my Government intends to continue to extend its support to those efforts.

Mr. MALONE (Canada): On behalf of my Government I should like to take this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General for his announcement today of the nomination of Professor Sadako Ogata to the important position of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. I should like also to extend our warm and sincere congratulations to Mrs. Ogata on having been selected by the Secretary-General to take on that critical responsibility.

A variety of other names, including that of a very distinguished Canadian, were put forward to the Secretary-General for his consideration, and it is a tribute to Mrs. Ogata's strong qualifications and widely recognized skills that we are congratulating her on her selection today. Canada pledges to work closely and co-operatively with Mrs. Ogata, as we have with all her predecessors at the Office. We see that prominent United Nations agency under Mrs. Ogata's energetic leadership playing an even more crucial role in the future than in the past, given demographic and other global trends we are witnessing today.

I particularly want to express Canada's appreciation for the comprehensive consultations undertaken by the Secretary-General prior to this nomination.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has concluded its consideration of agenda item 16 (d).

AGENDA ITEMS 116, 117 (continued), 119 to 124, 125 (continued), 126 to 133, 12 (continued), 118 and 17 (continued)

FINANCIAL REPORTS AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, AND REPORTS OF THE BOARD OF AUDITORS: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/729)

REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/899)

PROGRAMME PLANNING: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/901)

CURRENT FINANCIAL CRISIS OF THE UNITED NATIONS: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/883)

FINANCIAL EMERGENCY OF THE UNITED NATIONS: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/884)

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY CO-ORDINATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS WITH THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/885)

JOINT INSPECTION UNIT: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/795)

PATTERN OF CONFERENCES: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/879)

SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/902)

PERSONNEL QUESTIONS: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/898)

UNITED NATIONS COMMON SYSTEM: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/889)

UNITED NATIONS PENSION SYSTEM: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/880)

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

(a) UNITED NATIONS DISENGAGEMENT OBSERVER FORCE: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/895)

(b) UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/896)

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS IRAN-IRAQ MILITARY OBSERVER GROUP: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/897)

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS ANGOLA VERIFICATION MISSION: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/882)

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRANSITION ASSISTANCE GROUP

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER GROUP IN CENTRAL AMERICA: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/892)

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/886); CHAPTERS CONSIDERED DIRECTLY IN PLENARY MEETING (A/45/3, CHAPTERS I, III (section B), IV (section A), VII AND VIII)

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/900)

APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

(a) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (PART II) (A/45/577/Add.1)

(b) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/861)

(c) APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF AUDITORS: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/862)

(d) CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/863)

(e) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/864)

(f) INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

(i) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

(ii) DESIGNATION OF THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/865)

(h) APPOINTMENT OF AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS STAFF PENSION COMMITTEE: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/866)

The PRESIDENT: If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Fifth Committee before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote. The positions of delegations regarding the various recommendations of the Fifth Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

May I remind members that by paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that:

(The President)

"When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee".

May I remind delegations that in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401 explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the Fifth Committee's reports, I should like to advise members that in cases where a recorded vote was taken in the Fifth Committee, we too shall take a recorded vote. Also, I hope we shall be able to adopt without a vote those recommendations that were adopted without a vote in the Fifth Committee, unless delegations have already notified the Secretariat otherwise.

The Assembly will consider first the report of the Fifth Committee (A/45/729) on agenda item 116, entitled "Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors". The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 7 of that report. The Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 45/235).

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded our consideration of agenda item 116.

The Assembly will next consider the report of the Fifth Committee (A/45/883) on agenda item 120, entitled "Current financial crisis of the United Nations", and the report of the Fifth Committee (A/45/884) on agenda item 121, entitled "Financial emergency of the United Nations".

(The President)

The Assembly will now take a decision on the two-part draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of both reports. The draft resolution, entitled "Current financial crisis and financial emergency of the United Nations", was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly too wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 45/236 A and B).

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of agenda items 120 and 121.

The Assembly will now consider the report of the Fifth Committee (A/45/885) on agenda item 122, entitled "Administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency".

The Assembly will now take action on the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of that report. The Fifth Committee adopted the draft decision without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: That concludes our consideration of agenda item 122.

We turn now to the report of the Fifth Committee (A/45/795) on agenda item 123, concerning the Joint Inspection Unit.

The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 8 of that report. The draft resolution was adopted by the Fifth Committee without objection. May I take it that the General Assembly too wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 45/237).

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded our consideration of agenda item 123.

(The President)

The General Assembly will now consider the report of the Fifth Committee (A/45/879) on agenda item 124, relating to the pattern of conferences.

The Assembly will take a decision on the two-part draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 7 of the report and on the draft decision recommended in paragraph 8 of the report.

The draft resolution is entitled "Pattern of conferences" and consists of two parts, A and B. The draft resolution was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly too wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 45/238 A and B).

The PRESIDENT: We turn now to the draft decision, entitled "Printing requirements of the United Nations", contained in paragraph 8 of the report of the Fifth Committee. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of that draft decision. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 124.

We turn now to the report of the Fifth Committee (A/45/898) on agenda item 126, entitled "Personnel questions".

The Assembly will take a decision on the two draft resolutions recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 15 of the report and on the draft decision recommended in paragraph 16.

(The President)

We turn first to the recommendations contained in paragraph 15 of the report of the Fifth Committee. Draft resolution I, composed of parts A to C, concerns personnel questions. It was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly too wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 45/239 A, B and C).

The PRESIDENT: Draft resolution II, entitled "Respect for the privileges and immunities of officials of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and related organizations", was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly too wishes to adopt draft resolution II?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 45/240).

The PRESIDENT: We turn now to the draft decision contained in paragraph 16 of the report of the Fifth Committee. The draft decision, entitled "Amendments to the Staff Rules", was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the General Assembly too wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: The General Assembly has now concluded its consideration of agenda item 126.

Next, the Assembly will consider the report of the Fifth Committee (A/45/889) on agenda item 127, entitled "United Nations common system".

The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 9 of that report. The draft resolution, entitled "United Nations common system: report of the International Civil Service Commission", was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly also wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 45/241).

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded our consideration of agenda item 127.

We shall now consider the report of the Fifth Committee (A/45/880) on agenda item 128, entitled "United Nations pension system".

The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution contained in paragraph 8 of that report. The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 45/242).

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded our consideration of agenda item 128.

(The President)

The Assembly will now consider the reports of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 129 relating to the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping forces in the Middle East, contained in documents A/45/895 and A/45/896.

We shall first consider the report of the Fifth Committee (A/45/895) on sub-item (a) of agenda item 129, which relates to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force. The recommendation of the Fifth Committee is contained in paragraph 6 of that report. The draft resolution, "Financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force", was adopted without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 45/243).

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now consider the report of the Fifth Committee (A/45/896) on sub-item (b) of agenda item 129, which relates to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. The draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee is contained in paragraph 6 of its report. The draft resolution, "Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon", was adopted without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 45/244).

The PRESIDENT: I now call upon the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, who has asked to make a statement in explanation of his delegation's position.

Mr. SHAHEED (Syrian Arab Republic) (interpretation from Arabic): My delegation would like to express its position with regard to the draft resolutions that have just been adopted on the financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, in document A/45/895, and on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, in document A/45/896. I should like to state that had the two draft resolutions been put to the vote, my delegation would have voted

(Mr. Shaheed, Syrian Arab Republic)

against them, in keeping with the principled position that we have expressed at earlier sessions of the General Assembly, namely, that the expenses should be paid by the aggressor whose aggressive practices have made the presence of the two Forces necessary.

The PRESIDENT: We have thus completed our consideration of sub-items (a) and (b) of agenda item 129.

The Assembly will now consider the report of the Fifth Committee (A/45/897) on agenda item 130, "Financing of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group".

The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution contained in paragraph 6 of the report of the Fifth Committee. The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 45/245).

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 130.

The Assembly will now consider the report of the Fifth Committee (A/45/882) on agenda item 131, "Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission".

The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution contained in paragraph 6 of the report of the Fifth Committee. The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 45/246).

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 131.

(The President)

With regard to agenda item 132, "Financing of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group", we have been informed by the Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee that the Committee, at its forty-ninth meeting on Tuesday, 18 December 1990, decided, without objection, to defer consideration of this item to a resumed forty-fifth session.

May I take it that the Assembly takes note of that decision?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now consider the report of the Fifth Committee (A/45/892) on agenda item 133, "Financing of the United Nations Observer Group in Central America".

The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report. The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 45/247).

The PRESIDENT: We have concluded our consideration of agenda item 133.

The Assembly will now consider the report of the Fifth Committee (A/45/886) on agenda item 12, dealing with those chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council that were allocated to the Fifth Committee.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision contained in paragraph 4 of the report of the Fifth Committee. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of that draft decision. May I take it that the Assembly adopts the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: We have concluded our consideration of those chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council that were allocated to the Fifth Committee.

(The President)

We turn now to the report of the Fifth Committee (A/45/900) on agenda item 118, concerning the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991.

The Assembly will now consider the five draft resolutions contained in paragraph 58, section IV, of the report of the Fifth Committee, which, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/45/L.15 and Corr.1. After all the decisions have been taken, representatives will again have the opportunity to explain their votes.

We shall take decisions on the five draft resolutions in paragraph 58, section IV, of document A/C.5/45/L.15 and Corr.1. We shall first turn to draft resolution I, dealing with "Questions relating to the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991". The Fifth Committee recommends the adoption of draft resolution I, Part A, sections I to XV, and Part B, sections I to VI. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do so?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 45/248 A and B).

The PRESIDENT: Draft resolution II is entitled "Conditions of service and compensation for officials, other than Secretariat officials, serving the General Assembly". The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution II. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 45/249).

The PRESIDENT: Next, we turn to draft resolution III, "Conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials - members of the International Court of Justice". The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution III. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 45/250 A, B and C).

The PRESIDENT: Draft resolution IV, "Salary and retirement allowance for the Secretary-General and salary and pensionable remuneration of the

(The President)

Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme". The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution IV. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 45/251).

The PRESIDENT: Lastly, draft resolution V, parts A, B and C, concerns the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, and includes: A, the revised budget appropriations for the biennium 1990-1991; B, the revised income estimates for the biennium 1990-1991; and, C, the financing of appropriations for the year 1991. The Fifth Committee recommends the adoption of the draft resolution. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt draft resolution V?

Draft resolution V was adopted (resolutions 45/252 A, B and C).

The PRESIDENT: I call upon the representative of Colombia, who has asked to make a statement in explanation of his delegation's position.

Mr. PEÑALOSA (Colombia)(interpretation from Spanish): The delegation of Colombia feels it necessary to clarify the terms upon which it decided to associate itself with the consensus in the adoption of the draft resolution on the financing of the United Nations Observer Mission for the Verification of the Electoral Process in Haiti. At the request of the Government of Haiti the nature of these activities has been the subject of wide-ranging consultations among the delegations of the Latin American and Caribbean Group. The consultations led in October to the formulation of a regional position, which enabled the General Assembly to define the scope of the assistance in resolution 45/2. In accordance with that regional position, which won the consensus support of the Assembly, the Colombian delegation has supported the text of the resolution just adopted to set up appropriate financing machinery for electoral assistance to Haiti.

My delegation is of the view, however, that the nature of that machinery should not in future be taken as a precedent for the purpose of interpreting such activities as related to the maintenance of international peace and security.

Mr. TISSOT (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom would very much like to explain its position on agenda item 118. Unfortunately, the Fifth Committee, which I believe is meeting at the moment, has prevented my Fifth Committee colleague from coming to the plenary meeting to make this explanation of position. As a point of order, I should like to suggest that the plenary meeting suspend its action until such time as the Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee is here.

The PRESIDENT: In response to the statement of the representative of the United Kingdom, I should like to point out that agenda item 118 will remain open and that in the meantime the Assembly shall return to agenda item 12, "Report of the Economic and Social Council" (A/45/3).

(The President)

Members will recall that chapters I, III (section B), IV (section A), VII and VIII of the report of the Council were assigned to plenary meetings. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to take note of those chapters of the report?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of chapters I, III (section B), IV (section A), VII and VIII of the report of the Economic and Social Council and of all of the chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council.

The Assembly will now consider the reports of the Fifth Committee on sub-items (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) and (h) of agenda item 17, "Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs".

I first invite members to turn their attention to Part II of the report (A/45/577/Add.1) of the Fifth Committee on sub-item (a) of agenda item 17, "Appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions".

Members will recall that the Assembly has already considered Part I of the report of the Fifth Committee (A/45/577) at its 23rd plenary meeting on 5 October.

In paragraph 4 of Part II of its report, the Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly should appoint the following persons as members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 1991: Mr. Leonid Bidny, Mr. Even Fontaine-Ortiz, Mr. John Fox, Mr. Richard Kinchen and Ms. M'hand Ladjouzi.

May I take it that the Assembly appoints those persons?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We turn now to the report (A/45/861) of the Fifth Committee on sub-item (b) of agenda item 17, "Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions".

(The President)

In paragraph 6 of that report the Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly should appoint the following persons as members of the Committee on Contributions for a three-year term of office beginning 1 January 1991: Syed Amjad Ali, Mr. Henrik Amneus, Mr. Yuri Chulkov, Mr. Jorge Duhalt, Mr. Ugo Sessi and Mr. Wang Liansheng.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to appoint the persons recommended?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I now invite members to turn their attention to the report (A/45/862) of the Fifth Committee on sub-item (c) of agenda item 17, "Appointment of a member of the Board of Auditors".

In paragraph 5 of that report the Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly should appoint the Auditor-General of Ghana as a member of the United Nations Board of Auditors for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 July 1991.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to approve that appointment?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I now invite members to turn their attention to the report (A/45/863) of the Fifth Committee on sub-item (d) of agenda item 17, "Confirmation of the appointment of members of the Investment Committee".

The Fifth Committee recommends in paragraph 4 of that report that the General Assembly should confirm the appointment by the Secretary-General of the following persons as members of the Investments Committee for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 1991: Mr. Jean Guyot, Mr. George Johnston and Mr. Michiya Matsukawa.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to confirm the appointment of those persons?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We now come to the report (A/45/864) of the Fifth Committee dealing with the appointment of members of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal under sub-item (e) of agenda item 17.

In paragraph 4 of that report the Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly should appoint Mr. Luis de Posadas Montero and Mr. Ioan Voicu as members of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 1991.

May I consider that the Assembly appoints those persons?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We now turn to the report (A/45/865) of the Fifth Committee on sub-item (f) of agenda item 17, concerning the appointment of members of the International Civil Service Commission and designation of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Commission.

In paragraph 6 of that report the Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly should appoint the following persons as members of the International Civil Service Commission: for a four-year term of office beginning on 1 January 1991: Mr. Mohsen Belhaj Amor, Mrs. Turkia Daddah, Mr. André Xavier Pirson, Mr. Jaroslav Riha and Mr. Carlos Vegega; for a two-year term of office beginning on 1 January 1991: Mr. Anatoly Matveyevich Dryukov.

(The President)

In the same paragraph the Fifth Committee also recommends that the General Assembly should designate Mr. Mohsen Belhaj Amor as Chairman of the Commission for a four-year term of office beginning 1 January 1991 and Mr. Carlos Vegega as Vice-Chairman of the Commission for a four-year term of office beginning 1 January 1991.

May I take it that the General Assembly approves those recommendations?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Lastly, we turn to the report (A/45/866) of the Fifth Committee on sub-item (h) of agenda item 17, "Appointment of an alternate member of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee".

In paragraph 4 of that report the Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly should appoint Mr. Jorge Duhalt as an alternate member of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee for a one-year term of office beginning on 1 January 1991.

May I take it that the Assembly appoints that person?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: That concludes our consideration of sub-items (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) and (h) of agenda item 17.

AGENDA ITEM 39

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The PRESIDENT: It is my understanding that there is no request to consider this item at the present session.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to defer consideration of this item to the forty-sixth session and to include it in the provisional agenda of that session?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: That concludes our consideration of agenda item 39.

AGENDA ITEM 76 (continued)

COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS: APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER TO FILL A CASUAL VACANCY IN THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now resume its consideration of agenda item 76, "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects," in order to consider a matter relating to the membership of the Special Committee on Peace-Keeping Operations.

Members will recall that by letter dated 3 October 1990 (A/45/567) the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany informed the Secretary-General that through the accession of the German Democratic Republic to the Federal Republic of Germany, with effect from 3 October 1990, the two German States had united to form one sovereign State.

As of 3 October, therefore, the seat occupied by the former German Democratic Republic in the Special Committee on Peace-Keeping Operations became vacant.

I should like to inform the Assembly that, following consultations, the President of the General Assembly has appointed Germany, with immediate effect, to the vacancy in the Special Committee on Peace-Keeping Operations.

The President considers that the question of increasing the membership of the Special Committee, which some Member States brought up during consultations, is a separate issue that will be addressed at a later date.

AGENDA ITEM 119 (continued)

PROGRAMME PLANNING: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/901)

The PRESIDENT: I now invite members to turn their attention to the report (A/45/901) of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 119, "Programme planning".

(The President)

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended in paragraph 8, section III, of the report of the Fifth Committee, which, for the time being, is contained in document A/C.5/45/L.21.

The Fifth Committee adopted that draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 45/253).

The meeting was suspended at 4.15 p.m. and resumed at 4.50 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 118 (continued) and 119 (continued)

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/900)

PROGRAMME PLANNING: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/901)

The PRESIDENT: I shall now call on those representatives who wish to explain their position on agenda items 118 and 119.

Ms. CLIFF (United Kingdom): My delegation wishes to explain its position on two items, beginning with item 118, concerning the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991.

My delegation regrets that, with regard to the programme budget outline, the presentation of information to the Fifth Committee did not permit a clear view to be taken on the rate of real growth involved in the decision the General Assembly has just taken. My delegation joined the consensus, on the understanding that there is no statistically significant difference in the real level of recurrent expenditure compared with the present biennium.

I turn now to item 119, on programme planning and the report of the Fifth Committee. My delegation notes from the annex to the resolution that has just been adopted that the Fifth Committee did not consider itself competent to discuss such substantive issues as peace-making. The same applies to all substantive issues, and while my delegation joined the consensus on the resolution, it does not consider itself bound by any particular terminology in the medium-term plan.

The PRESIDENT: As we are awaiting documentation on items 86, 117 and 125, I shall have to suspend the meeting.

The meeting was suspended at 4.55 p.m. and resumed at 6.15 p.m.

The PRESIDENT: I shall first call on the representatives of Cuba and India, who also wish to explain their position on agenda items 118 and 119.

Mrs. GOICOCHEA ESTENOZ (Cuba) (interpretation from Spanish): With regard to agenda item 118, my delegation would like to point out that we joined the consensus on the draft resolutions on the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 contained in document A/C.5/45/L.15. However, my delegation would like to make two comments.

Our first comment is general in nature. It springs from our concern over the fact that - despite previous steps taken by the General Assembly with regard to administrative and budgetary matters, particularly with regard to the number of posts in various units, including high-level posts - this time the creation of new posts has been approved, establishing a precedent for our future work. My delegation hopes that these decisions will not be selective and that the same procedure will be followed each time additional posts are justified in certain programmes.

Secondly, my delegation would like to refer to the draft resolution recommending the appropriation of funds for electoral assistance to Haiti. My delegation would like to place on record its understanding that, even though the sum of $5 million is to be financed as a revised estimate arising out of extraordinary expenses, this does not at all signify that this measure is in any way linked with international peace and security but, rather, is clearly a matter of technical co-operation.

With regard to agenda item 119, my delegation would like to point out that it joined in the decision to adopt the draft resolution on this item without a vote, despite the difficulties we have with some of the proposals formulated in the medium-term plan for 1992-1997.

(Mrs. Goicochea Estenoz, Cuba)

All of us who worked on this item are aware of the fact that this final decision involved wide ranging and painstaking negotiations, which began quite some time ago and intensified with the presentation of the Secretary-General's proposed medium-term plan at the thirtieth session of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in May and June of this year. It is quite obvious that the fundamental reason for the concern of some delegations stems from the fact that the draft plan contained some highly controversial proposals lacking any kind of legislative base, without their having been appropriately considered by the relevant intergovernmental bodies.

(Mrs. Goicochea Estenoz, Cuba)

Clearly, that made the consultation process extremely difficult and put at risk the adoption of the medium-term plan at this session. My delegation hopes that such a practice will not be repeated and that the Secretariat, when putting forward new medium-term plans, or revised plans, will abide strictly by the prevailing procedures for the planning of programmes.

With regard to the annex to the resolution on the medium-term plan, we would like to state the following. First, with regard to peace-making, my delegation hopes that the necessary steps will be taken so that the relevant intergovernmental bodies will have an opportunity to express their views with regard to revisions of the plan. We believe that the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations, the Sixth Committee, the First Committee and the Special Political Committee should be included among these bodies. Secondly, my delegation awaits with interest the reformulation of Programme 21 on public administration and finance. Moreover, we hope that the Secretariat, in its proposed programme budget, will take specifically into account the mandates mentioned in programme 21.

Finally, we express the hope that the proposed programme budget to be adopted next year will appropriately reflect the importance Member States have attached to the various programmes of the current medium-term plan.

Mr. GUPTA (India): My delegation would like to speak in explanation of position on agenda item 118.

In regard to document A/C.5/45/L.15, under draft resolution I, operative paragraph 5, on page 36, there is an associated understanding of the Fifth Committee which was read out by the rapporteur when this item was under consideration in the Fifth Committee. My delegation is surprised to note, from the corrigendum appearing in document A/C.5/45/L.15/Corr.1, that that understanding has not been reflected in the corrigendum. My delegation would like to reiterate that

(Mr. Gupta, India)

understanding in respect of operative paragraph 5 on that page which reads as follows:

"The Fifth Committee recommends the General Assembly to request the Secretary-General to provide business class tickets to Permanent Representatives of Member States accredited to the United Nations whenever they are invited to travel on official United Nations work."

My delegation would request that a correction be made in the corrigendum in this regard and that an amended version be issued as soon as possible.

The PRESIDENT: The comment of the representative of India has been noted. That concludes our consideration of agenda items 118 and 119.

AGENDA ITEM 117 (continued)

REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/899)

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now turn to the report (A/45/899) of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 117, entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations".

The Assembly will now take a decision on the two draft resolutions recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 10 of its report.

Draft resolution I, A to C, is entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations".

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 45/254 A, B and C).

The PRESIDENT: Draft resolution II is entitled "Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 1992-1993".

(The President)

The Fifth Committee also adopted this draft resolution without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 45/255).

The PRESIDENT: We have concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 117.

AGENDA ITEM 125 (continued)

SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/902)

The PRESIDENT: We now turn to the report (A/45/902) on agenda item 125, entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations".

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended in paragraph 7, section III, of the report of the Fifth Committee, which for the time being is contained in document A/C.5/45/L.22.

The Fifth Committee adopted this draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 45/256 A, B and C).

The PRESIDENT: The General Assembly has just concluded its consideration of agenda item 125.

AGENDA ITEM 86 (continued)

SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE: DRAFT RESOLUTION A/45/L.44

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now resume its consideration of agenda item 86, in order to consider the draft resolution in document A/45/L.44. The draft resolution, entitled "Special emergency assistance to Haiti", was introduced this morning and operative paragraph 3 was orally revised.

(The President)

I should like to inform members that following consultations, operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution should be replaced by the following text:

"Decides to keep the question on assistance to Haiti under review and requests the Secretary-General to consult the Government of Haiti as soon as possible concerning appropriate initiatives for the launching of a special programme of emergency assistance to Haiti and to inform the Assembly on the outcome of such consultations."

(The President)

I should like to announce additional sponsors, as follows: Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, France, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the United States of America.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/45/L.44, as orally revised?

Draft resolution A/45/L.44, as orally revised, was adopted (resolution 45/257).

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 86 and of all the reports of the Second Committee.

PROGRAMME OF WORK

The PRESIDENT: Apart from organizational matters and matters that may arise by operation of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, and bearing in mind the action already taken at its 1st, 36th, 43rd, 59th, 65th, 68th, 70th, 71st and 72nd plenary meetings concerning agenda items 3 (b), 19, 23, 28, 34, 42, 76, 86, 100 and 117, it is proposed to members that the General Assembly retain on the agenda of the forty-fifth session the following agenda items:

Item 3 (b) Report of the Credentials Committee;

Item 19 Admission of new Members to the United Nations;

Item 23 Question of Palestine;

Item 28 The situation in Central America: threats to international peace and security and peace initiatives;

Item 34 Policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa;

Item 42 Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security;

(The President)

Item 43 Question of Cyprus;

Item 76 Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects;

Item 86 Special economic and disaster relief assistance;

Item 100 Crime prevention and criminal justice;

Item 117 Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations;

Item 132 Financing of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group;

Item 134 Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations;

Item 153 Iraqi aggression and the continued occupation of Kuwait in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations.

May I take it that the Assembly agrees to this proposal?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 6.35 p.m.